

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT DAVID SHIPLER COLUMN NEW YORK TIMES
WEDNESDAY MAY 18 HEADED "BREZHNEV, URGING ARMS PACT, SILENT
ON ANY PROGRESS."
2. LEONID I. BREZHNEV SAID TODAY THAT A NEW TREATY
LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS WOULD HELP IMPROVE THE CLIMATE OF
SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, BUT HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT
THE DEADLOCK OVER SUCH AN ACCORD HAD BEEN BROKEN.
3. SPEAKING ON THE EVE OF HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS IN
GENEVA, THE SOVIET LEADER REITERATED THAT A TREATY LIMITING
OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD BE BASED ON AN UNDERSTAND-
ING HE REACHED WITH PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD AT
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VLADIVOSTOK IN 1974, LIMITING EACH SIDE TO 2,400 HEAVY
BOMBERS AND MISSILE LAUNCHERS. MR. BREZHNEV'S POSITION
SEEMED TO PRECLUDE EARLY ACCEPTANCE OF COMPREHENSIVE CUTS
IN FORCE LEVELS PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER.

4. MR. BREZHNEV SAID THE SOVIET UNION ALSO WANTED TO

DISCUSS "THE LIQUIDATION OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA OF SHIPS CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS." HE WAS APPARENTLY ALLUDING TO THE UNITED STATES BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE UNITED STATES SIXTH FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

5. "IN SHORT," HE WENT ON, "AS YOU SEE, THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS, AND THE PROSPECTS ARE SERIOUS. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE PERFECTLY REALISTIC IF ALL PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS SHOW A SINCERE STRIVING TO STRENGTHEN PEACE AND AN HONEST READINESS TO SEEK SOLUTIONS THAT DO NOT DAMAGE THE INTERESTS OF SOME STATES AND DO NOT PROVIDE UNILATERAL BENEFITS FOR OTHERS."

6. THESE REMARKS, MADE AT A DINNER FOR VISITING PRESIDENT URHO K. KEKKONEN OF FINLAND, ECHOED SOVIET ARGUMENTS MADE LAST MARCH IN REJECTING TWO PROPOSALS BROUGHT TO MOSCOW BY SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE. THE RUSSIANS REJECTED THE PLANS ON THE GROUND THAT THEY WOULD GIVE(SIC) HAVE GIVEN THE UNITED STATES UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE AND DAMAGED SOVIET SECURITY INTERESTS.

7. AS MR. VANCE PREPARES TO MEET TOMORROW IN GENEVA WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI A. GROMYKO, THE TWO SIDES SEEM TO REMAIN FAR APART ON THE KEY ISSUE OF HOW TO CONTROL THE CRUISE MISSILE, A PILOTLESS, WINGED CRAFT BEING DEVELOPED BY THE UNITED STATES. SINCE IT CAN BE FIRED FROM SUBMARINES, SURFACE SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT CLOSE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO THE SOVIET UNION, MOSCOW WANTS IT TO COUNT AS A STRATEGIC WEAPON AND THUS TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE 2,400 TOTAL AGREED TO AT VLADIVOSTOK WHENEVER ITS RANGE EXCEED 360 MILES.

8. NEITHER OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE SATISFIED THIS SOVIET CONCERN. ONE WOULD HAVE AFFIRMED THE VLADIVOSTOK LIMITS BUT PUT THE CRUISE MISSILE ASIDE FOR LATER DISCUSSION. THE OTHER WOULD HAVE REDUCED THE DEPLOYMENT OF VARIOUS HEAVY MISSILES IN WHICH THE RUSSIANS ARE AHEAD AND LEFT THE CRUISE MISSILE UNLIMITED UP TO A RANGE OF 1,500 MILES.

9. THERE WERE NO SUCH DETAILS IN MR. BREZHNEV'S REMARKS TODAY. HE SEEMED INTENT ONLY ON MAKING GENERAL STATEMENTS ON ARMS CONTROL.

10. "THE MAIN DIRECTION FOR THE EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE DETENT AND ACHIEVE A DURABLE PEACE IS STILL THE PROBLEM

OF CONTAINING THE ARMS RACE AND GOING OVER TO A REAL
REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS," HE SAID.

11. REFERRING TO THE ARMS NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID:
"THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS GREAT EFFORT WOULD HAVE
IMPORTANT, BASIC SIGNIFICANCE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW
OF THE GENERAL CLIMATE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND
WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SERVE TO STIMULATE NEW AND FURTHER
REACHING INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS TO CONTAIN THE ARMS RACE."

12. "WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS WOULD SPECIFICALLY HELP
TO SOLVE SUCH IMPORTANT PROBLEMS AS THE BANNING OF ALL
KINDS OF NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS, THE BANNING OF NEW KINDS
AND SYSTEMS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, THE LIMITATION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF CERTAIN OTHER KINDS OF ARMS.

13. "EFFORTS MUST BE POOLED SO THAT THE POINTER OF THE
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WORLD'S POLITICAL BAROMETER DOES NOT SHAKE CONSTANTLY AND
ALWAYS POINTS TO 'CLEAR.'"

14. "UNFORTUNATELY, EVERYTHING DOES NOT DEPEND ON US,"
MR. GROMYKO SAID. "MANY THINGS DEPEND ON THE UNITED
STATES, ON ITS PRESENT POSITION, ON THE POSITION THAT
SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE WILL BE BRINGING WITH HIM."

15. MR. VANCE ARRIVES TOMORROW FROM PARIS, AFTER
ATTENDING HIS SON'S GRADUATION YESTERDAY AT YALE
UNIVERSITY. THE TWO MEN ARE EXPECTED TO SPEND SEVERAL
DAYS DISCUSSING ARMS ISSUES AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY
ARE ALSO SCHEDULED TO SIGN A TREATY THAT PROHIBITS
MODIFICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. CHRISTOPHER

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